

ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus are described for utilizing embedded data layers in images. In one embodiment, an image database stores and controls images and/or image objects and their associated information metadata layers, which allows for multiple levels of data to be retrieved and encoded into the image. This increases image data content and information in a manner that will not be separated from the image through their embedding in multiple transform or high coding rate watermarks, incorporating the multiple metadata data fields in the selected image or selected image objects. The various embodiments include databases that allow images or sub-images/objects and information associated with the image or object to be easily associated and assembled as needed or produced on demand. In one embodiment, a manufacturer generates a database of product images and associated product information.